(b) Yes, Sir. NCCF stopped dealing with M/s. Oswal Agro Mills thereafter.

(c) and (d) A complaint against the Assistant Manager of NCCF has been received and it is under investigation by NCCF.

Irregularities in the sale of Bardana in Bhiwani Branch of NCCF

2213. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pending investigation by the CBI in the case relating to irregularities in the sale of Bardana in Bhiwani Branch of N.C.C.F. an Assistant Manager-II was transferred from Delhi to Patna after initially imposing a minor penalty in the departmental enquiry; whether the CBI has concluded its investigation and if so, the details thereof; if not, what action is proposed to be taken by NCCF against the involved Assistant Manager;

(b) whether it is also a fact that said Assistant Manager was transferred from Patna to Calcutta and from Patna to Jaipur for his alleged involvement in scandalous deals while working in Patna;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said Assistant Manager now working in Jaipur Branch has been allegedly involved in large scale corruption/malpractices in the disposal of Janata Handloom products to Primary Cooperatives of Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken against the involved Assistant Manager?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) The case relating to irregularities in the sale of Bardana in the Bhiwani Branch of NCCF was referred by the Department of Civil Supplies to the CBI initially in December, 1986 for investigation. The CBI, however, did not take up the investigation for some reasons. They were again requested by the Department of Civil Supplies in March, 1987 to reconsider their stand and accept the case for investigatin. The CBI ultimately returned the case in May, 1987 on the plea that the employees of the NCCF were not public servants within the meaning of Section 21 of the Indian Penal Code which disabled them from undertaking investigation into the allegations. The NCCF had earlier initiated disciplinary actions against the Assistant Manager-II and issued charge-sheet on 25.2.84. After the completion of the departmental proceedings, a minor penalty of withholding two annual increments with cumulative effect was imposed on him on 3.8.1987. He was also transferred out from Delhi to Patna.

(b) No, Sir. The Assistant Manager-II was issued a transfer order on 4.4.1989 by the Regional Manager (East) of NCCF posting him from Patna to Calcutta, for administrative grounds. He represented against this order to the Head Office, which modified the transfer order on 27.4.89 posting him to Jaipur.

(c) No complaint has come to notice.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c).

Setting up of sugar mills in Maharashtra in Co-operative sector

2214. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the replies to Unstarred Questions 457 and 555 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th March, and state:

(a) what is the number of pending sugar factory projects for the clearance of licences; and

(b) what is the total number of Co-operative Sugar Factories Project from Maharashtra pending for the clearance of necessary licences and what step Government would take to clear such licences and by when?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b) 108 applications